on account of operational reasons. The situation is expected to normalize further by the end of November 2005 on the restoration of production in RIL's refinery.

Joint Venture Projects of oil companies

699. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various Government owned oil companies have proposed to start joint venture projects of gas and oil with huge investments with foreign agencies; and

(b) if so, the details of companies they propose to tie-up for gas and oil production?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) have proposed to start venture projects. The details of their joint venture projects are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of joint venture projects

1. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL)

   ONGC and OVL have tied up with Mittal Investment Sari and two agreements have been signed to form two joint ventures viz. ONGC Mittal Energy Ltd. (OMEL) and ONGC Mittal Energy Services Ltd. (OMESL).

2. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)

   IOCL has proposed to set-up an Integrated LNG Project in Iran along with Petropars, a 100% subsidiary of Naftlran Intertrade Company Limited of Iran.

3. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)

   BPCL has a joint venture i.e. Bharat Oman Refineries Limited (BORL) to set up a 6 MMTPA grassroots refinery at Bina with Oman Oil Company Limited.

4. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)

HPCL has signed a letter of intent with British Petroleum for jointly promoting at least 9.0 MMTPA capacity refinery at Bathinda, in Punjab.

HPCL is also evaluating possibility of setting up a condensate splitter cum aromatic project near Visakh, Andhra Pradesh with M/s. Total S.A. France for jointly promoting this project.

LNG Terminal at Kochi

700. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the proposed LNG Terminal at Vallarpadam, Kochi is in progress;

(b) if so, the expected time of commencing its operation;

(c) whether the supply of the LNG has since been ensured through international bidding; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Various pre-project activities have been completed including allotment of land,-major statutory clearances and pre-qualification of EPC contractors. Tenders have been issued for Time Charter Parties for shipping and for site grading.

(b) The project is expected to be operational by the last quarter of 2009.

(e) and (d) M/s Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) contracted 7.5 MMTPAof LNG from Ras Gas, Qatar in 1999, of which 5 MMTPA is at present being supplied to their Dahej LNG Terminal. Among the promoters of PLI, M/s. GAIL, IOC and BPCL have further contracted 5 MMTPAof LNG from National Iranian Gas Export Company (NIGEC). Further supplies are being negotiated from other sources. Thus the Kochi terminal is expected to receive supplies contracted and being negotiated.